Amaziah was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart. Now it came to pass, when the kingdom was established to him, that he slew his servants that had killed the king his father. But he slew not their children, but did as it is written in the law in the book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers, but every man shall die for his own sin. Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together, and made them captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, according to the houses of their fathers, throughout all Judah and Benjamin: and he numbered them from twenty years old and above, and found them three hundred thousand choice men, able to go forth to war, that could handle spear and shield. He hired also an hundred thousand mighty men of valour out of Israel for an hundred talents of silver. But there came a man of God to him, saying, O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the LORD is not with Israel, to wit, with all the children of Ephraim. But if thou wilt go, do it; be strong for the battle: God shall make thee fall before the enemy: for God hath power to help, and to cast down. And Amaziah said to the man of God, But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel? And the man of God answered, The LORD is able to give thee much more than this. Then Amaziah separated them, to wit, the army that was come to him out of Ephraim, to go home again: wherefore their anger was greatly kindled against Judah, and they returned home in great anger. Amaziah strengthened himself, and led forth his people, and went to the valley of salt, and smote of the children of Seir ten thousand. Other ten thousand left alive did the children of Judah carry away captive, and brought them unto the top of the rock, and cast them down from the top of the rock, that they all were broken in pieces. But the soldiers of the army which Amaziah sent back, that they should not go with him to battle, fell upon the cities of Judah, from Samaria even unto Bethhoron, and smote three thousand of them, and took much spoil. Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them. Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand? And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel? forbear; why shouldest thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbare, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel. Then Amaziah king of Judah took advice, and sent to Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us see one another in the face.
Verse 18: And Joash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, Give thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by a wild beast that was in Lebanon, and trode down the thistle. Verse 19: Thou sayest, Lo, thou hast smitten the Edomites; and thine heart lifteth thee up to boast: abide now at home; why shouldest thou meddle to thine hurt, that thou shouldest fall, even thou, and Judah with thee? Verse 20: But Amaziah would not hear; for it came of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought after the gods of Edom. Verse 21: So Joash the king of Israel went up; and they saw one another in the face, both he and Amaziah king of Judah, at Bethshemesh, which belongeth to Judah. Verse 22: And Judah was put to the worse before Israel, and they fled every man to his tent. Verse 23: And Joash the king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, at Bethshean, and brought him to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim to the corner gate, four hundred cubits. Verse 24: And he took all the gold and the silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of God with Obededom, and the treasures of the king's house, the hostages also, and returned to Samaria. Verse 25: And Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived after the death of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years.

Today we conclude this series of lessons. In a moment we shall begin to consider the life of King Amaziah. But before we do, let us name the Kings that follow Amaziah.

King Uzziah. Another king who began well but ended poorly. In his prosperity, his heart was lifted up in pride, and he stepped into the office of the priest, went into the Temple to offer a sacrifice and was smitten with leprosy. He had not been satisfied with his God-given position in life.

Jotham, Uzziah's son. He reigned but 16 years. He became mighty because he prepared his ways before the Lord. He stood true to God even though the people did corruptly. His history occupies only 9 verses in 2 Chronicles 27. This man's story like so many others, unknown godly people, will only be revealed in eternity.

Ahaz. He was a wicked king. And provoked to anger the Lord God of his fathers.

Hezekiah. He did right as did David his father. His history is like a breath of fresh air, but there is failure too. His story falls into three parts. (1) The days of trouble, when he did not fail. In his trouble he had the support of Isaiah as they prayed together. (2) The days of his sickness. Again he prayed, and in his sickness, did not fail. (3) Then he prospered. And it was during the days of his prosperity that he failed His God.

What a lesson for our day.

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Mannaseh The beginning of his reign, he was most ungodly but God dealt so severely with him, that at the end of his life, he sought God and was found of him. Although he turned to God, he was not able to win his son.

Amon was next and he was very ungodly and reigned but two years. His own servants slew him in his own house.

Josiah, Amon's son follows. He is ranked with the godly kings of Judah. (The others David, Asa, and Hezekiah) He reigned for 31 years, but after his reign the Nation fell very quickly, under the reign of his son.

Jehoahaz, was a wicked king. Jehoiakim, also a wicked king. Jehoachin, also wicked, reigned for three months. Finally his brother Zedekiah reigned for 11 years before the final captivity by Babylon.

There are many more lessons from these eleven kings, but we cannot consider them at this time.

1 2 CHRONICLES 25:1 HERE ARE THREE FACTS ABOUT AMAZIAH.

Amaziah was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 25:1

(1). He was 25 years of age when he began his reign. Certainly old enough to make proper choices in life.
(2). He reigned for 29 years in Jerusalem.
(3). His mother's name was Jehoaddan.

Amaziah outwardly, had a good start, but like so many, a poor finish. Most men are enthusiastic starters but poor finishers. (Ask any married woman!) Did you ever watch a parade, and observe the drop-outs along the way? In a race the finishers receive the prize. 2 Timothy4:6-8, Paul could say, "I have finished my course."

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

2 Timothy4:6-8

Mc Gee says, "Amaziah was a moderately good king.” We notice that his mother is named. Brother Harold Hollands often said, "mother's are named in Scripture because they have great influence on their children" We speak about "mothers prayers" and "mothers tears " and "mothers heart", and this is not all just sentiment. Mothers do have great influence for good or for evil. My mother had a great influence on my life for good.
Unger's Dictionary says, "perhaps the name "Jehoaddan" means "Jehovah's delight." That is arresting. We remember in 2 Chronicles 24:3, it was godly Jehoiada who made choice of the two wives for the young King Joash. This woman was one of them. And it seems right to suggest that the godly priest would choose a godly woman to be wife of the King. One in whom Jehovah could delight. The very fact that the record begins by naming the mother, seems to indicate that whatever good there was in Amaziah, his mother must be given some credit for it. For he certainly did not receive much spiritual help from his father.

And Jehoiada took for him two wives; and he begat sons and daughters.
2 Chronicles 24:3

11. 2 CHRONICLES 25:2 THE HALF-HEARTED, DOUBLE-MINDED MAN.

And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart.
2 Chronicles 25:2

"And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord.." How wonderful if the period was there to end the sentence, but it goes on to say, "but not with a perfect heart." And the last part of that verse determined the way this King lived. He did right, like his godly mother, but not with a perfect heart. He was like his father.

McLaren:
"Here is one of your half-hearted people. He is like Hosea's "cake not turned", burnt black on one side, raw dough on the other." From this we get the saying, "half baked".

Parker:
"The most remarkable feature in the character of Amaziah was his half-heartedness. He came as near as any man in history ever came to be that mysterious fountain that can send forth both sweet water and bitter."

Half-heartedness!
That has been the history of most Churches because it has been the history of the majority of Christians.

Parker:
"The Scriptures insist upon knowing and revealing the state of the heart. Not what is the intellect, the head, the genius, but what is the supreme emotion, the uppermost wish dominating desire, the purpose."

"One answer to that question settles everything. Could we have a perfect heart, we should know the meaning of consecration. We are not consecrated until the heart is filled with Divine fire, sanctified by Divine ministry, permeated by the Holy Ghost" (end)
As long as I can remember, I have been stressing the fact that, from the beginning to the end, Christianity is heart business. It is with our hearts that we believe unto righteousness. Romans 10:10 Mere head, intellectual belief will not do. And after we believe with our hearts and are saved, "whatsoever we do, we are to do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men." Colossians 3:23.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
Romans 10:10

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;
Colossians 3:23.

And I confess, never has this fact been more real to me than in the last two years. The Lord has truly been searching my own heart. Making me look at my motives, in everything I do and say. Am I really wholehearted? I often feel that I have been going through the examination with Peter, when the Lord asked Peter pointedly, Peter do you love me more than these? And Peter could only answer, Lord you know my heart better than I do.

I dare not say I am fully dedicated, but the Lord knows I want to be. There are kindred texts that I want to place along side of this verse in 2 Chronicles 25:2. Hosea 10:1 Israel is an empty vine, says the prophet. And why? Hosea 10:2 Their heart is divided. That is the reason. Psalm 12:1-2 "Help Lord, for the godly man ceaseth, for the faithful fail from among the children of men, they speak vanity every one with his neighbour (why?) "with flattering lips and a DOUBLE HEART do they speak."

And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart.
2 Chronicles 25:2

Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images.
Hosea 10:1

Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images.
Hosea 10:2

[[To the chief Musician upon Sheminith, A Psalm of David.]] Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men. They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.
Psalm 12:1-2
1 Chronicles 12:33 The men of Zebulun are commended, "their soldiers ..went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war fifty thousand which could keep rank...they were not of DOUBLE HEART." The only kind of soldiers who make a mark in warfare are "whole-hearted" men. Matthew 6:19-24, read the words again. And take the words seriously. Jesus talks about the "single eye" and the "evil eye". The evil eye is the double-eye. Double vision is blurred vision. With such one cannot see clearly. He may not be blind but he cannot see properly.

Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could keep rank: they were not of double heart.

Verse 19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: Verse 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: Verse 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Verse 22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. Verse 23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! Verse 24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:19-24

Matthew 12:25. The divided house cannot stand. This illustration explains why there are so many weak Christians. Why there are so many luke-warm Christians. Why there are so many "cold" Christians. Why there are so many backslidden Christians. They have divided hearts, pulling in two directions at one time. 1 Timothy 3:8 likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued." The kind of man who says one thing but does another. The kind of man who does one thing but says another! A double-tongued man is basically a dishonest man.

And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

Matthew 12:25

Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

1 Timothy 3:8

James 1:8 "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." Berkley Translation, "the half-hearted man is unstable in all his ways." Such was Amaziah.
Double-mindedness leads to instability, and we shall see this manifest in the Kings life.
Genesis 49:3,4, Jacob said of Reuben, "unstable as water" ,"thou shall not excel." That is the abiding principle. 2 Peter 3:16 "They that are unstable wrest or twist the Scriptures to their own destruction."

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A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.
James 1:8

Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father’s bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.
Genesis 49:3,4

As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.
2 Peter 3:16

2 Peter 2:14 unstable souls are easily beguiled, that is, led astray by false teachers and false teaching. Matthew 6:22-23 Read it again. If the light that is in thee become darkness how great is that darkness. Double-mindedness leads into spiritual darkness.

Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:
2 Peter 2:14

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!
Matthew 6:22-23

1 John 1:6 "If we say we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness we lie..." There is no fellowship with God in the dark! We are either going forward with God in the light, or we are going backward from God in the dark. We cannot stand still.

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:
1 John 1:6

There is still another illustration of this double-mindedness in 2 Kings 17:28,33,41. "So they feared the Lord AND made themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places..." 2 Kings 17:33, "They feared the Lord AND served their own gods..." And as a result, 2 Kings 17:41, "So these nations feared the Lord AND served graven images, both their children and their children's children; as did their fathers so did they." The double standard. The double mindedness affects the children. Today it seems that we have reached that period in history again, where our children are turning away from every doctrine and every standard that we have held.

Verse 28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD. Verse 33 They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence. Verse 41 So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.
2 Kings 17:28,33,41
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And I can only ask the question: "Could our double standards be the reason for this? Matthew 6:24, states plainly that double mindedness hinders our Christian service. "Ye cannot serve God AND anything. We serve God OR, we do not serve God AND. Worldliness is the result of an attitude towards life. Spirituality is also the result of an attitude towards life. May we learn from Amaziah that half-heartedness, double mindedness, do not pay good dividends.

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Matthew 6:24

Like Paul, every Christian should pray to be able to say, "This ONE thing I do". Nothing else matters but our Christianity. A Hindu professor, after hearing a preacher said, "If Christianity is not true, then it doesn't matter, but if Christianity is true, then nothing else matters." Oh to live with that as our daily conviction!

3. 2 CHRONICLES 25:3-4. HE BEGINS HIS REIGN BY DOING WHAT IS RIGHT.

Verse 3 Now it came to pass, when the kingdom was established to him, that he slew his servants that had killed the king his father. Verse 4 But he slew not their children, but did as it is written in the law in the book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers, but every man shall die for his own sin. 2 Chronicles 25:3-4

"He slew the servants that had killed the king, his father." Was this right or wrong? There is no lack of evidence. These men were murderers. They were proven to be murderers. And for such Capital Punishment is always right! Read Romans 13:1-4, especially Romans 13:4. Read 1 Timothy 1:8-10, "law is made for murderers". Judges are to take heed what they do for they judge not for man, but for the Lord. 2 Chronicles 19:6,11.

Verse 1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Verse 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. Verse 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: Verse 4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Romans 13:1-4

Verse 8 But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Verse 9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, Verse 10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; 1 Timothy 1:8-10

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Verse 6 And said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment. Verse 11 And, behold, Amariah the chief priest is over you in all matters of the LORD; and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, for all the king's matters: also the Levites shall be officers before you. Deal courageously, and the LORD shall be with the good.

2 Chronicles 19:6,11

2 Chronicles 25:4 proves the action taken in verse 3 is to be commended and not condemned. Amaziah knew what Moses had written. This indicates that he had at least in part followed the instruction given to Kings by Moses in Deuteronomy 17:18,19. He must have had a copy of the law and he must also have read it. "The fathers shall not die for the children nor the children for the fathers but every man shall die for his own sin."

But he slew not their children, but did as it is written in the law in the book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers, but every man shall die for his own sin.

2 Chronicles 25:4

Verse 18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: Verse 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

Deuteronomy 17:18,19

Individuality is everywhere in the Bible. True, we all came from Adam. True, we were all born sinners. But we live as individuals. We are individuals. We are not re-incarnate people. We shall die as individuals and be judged as individuals.

McGee

"You will never be judged for the sins of your mother or father. You stand judged on the basis of your own sins. On the other hand, you may have a very godly mother or father, but you will never go to heaven because of godly parents. You will go to heaven because of faith you have in Jesus Christ."

Joseph Parker: brings out another side to this. "Who has not been offended with the son because of something the father had done? Who has not renounced the whole family because one member of it has been found guilty of an offense?

How well do we remember a phone call, over 45 years ago, from a preacher who took his anger out on me because he thought my father had wronged him. I will not share the details, but that preacher was guilty of wrong judgment about my father (And Oh, how I wish I could have told him so, but he was in no frame of mind to listen.)

And now I can see, although he hurt my father very deeply, he hurt himself far more than anyone else. And now I have had to face the awful reality that I have held feelings against members of other families because of the misdeeds of one family member. And I have repented of that evil and have sincerely asked God for His forgiveness and His cleansing.

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Commenting on the statement, "every man shall die for his own sins", Parker writes: "Two shall be in a field, but one shall be taken." It is this discrimination. This individualization of judgment that God shows the fullness of His wisdom and the majesty of His Sovereignty. Every man shall die for his own sin. When it comes to eternal destiny, every man stands on his own two feet. However, there is a law, that the father cannot sin and his son be unscathed" (end)

No man lives unto himself. No man dies unto himself. What we do does touch the lives of our children and that of our grand-children. May we never forget that!

1V. 2 CHRONICLES 25:5-6 HE HIRES HELP FROM ISRAEL, AND BEGINS TO REVEAL HIS HALF-HARTEDENESS.

Verse 5 Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together, and made them captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, according to the houses of their fathers, throughout all Judah and Benjamin: and he numbered them from twenty years old and above, and found them three hundred thousand choice men, able to go forth to war, that could handle spear and shield.

Verse 6 He hired also an hundred thousand mighty men of valour out of Israel for an hundred talents of silver.
2 Chronicles 25:5-6

"Amaziah seemeth to be a soldier and nothing else." Here he is getting ready for war. So gathers his army to strengthen and secure his position. And in so doing, he reveals his half-heartedness, double mindedness. Comparing 2 Chronicles 25:5 with 2 Chronicles 14:8: We note that although 80 years have past since King Asa, Asa had almost twice as many men as did Amaziah. This fact reveals that the sinful leaders of Judah had brought decay and decline. Percentage wise, the Church in Canada has gained nothing in the past 100 years. Why the decline? Too many Christians have not grown to maturity. (A qualification of a soldier in 2 Chronicles 25:5) see Hebrews 5:14, 2 Peter 3:18.

Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together, and made them captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, according to the houses of their fathers, throughout all Judah and Benjamin: and he numbered them from twenty years old and above, and found them three hundred thousand choice men, able to go forth to war, that could handle spear and shield.
2 Chronicles 25:5

And Asa had an army of men that bare targets and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bare shields and drew bows, two hundred and fourscore thousand: all these were mighty men of valour.
2 Chronicles 14:8

Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together, and made them captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, according to the houses of their fathers, throughout all Judah and Benjamin: and he numbered them from twenty years old and above, and found them three hundred thousand choice men, able to go forth to war, that could handle spear and shield.
Chronicles 25:5
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But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:14

But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

Without such knowledge, we cannot have the shield of faith. Ephesians 6:16

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Ephesians 6:16

In 2 Chronicles 25:6, the King does not go to the Lord for help. He hires mercenaries, soldiers from ungodly Israel, and by doing so acknowledged his own weakness. And he agrees to pay them a hundred talents of silver in advance.

He hired also an hundred thousand mighty men of valour out of Israel for an hundred talents of silver.

2 Chronicles 25:6

There is a great lesson here for the Church. Churches often feel inadequate to meet the challenges of the day, so hire the help of the ungodly. By way of example. We need an organist, so we hire the unsaved. The only question asked, can he or she play the organ? Someone suggests that what the Church needs is some good trained professional talent. So what is done? We hire a soloist. One who has been trained to sing and nothing else matters. I have tried to preach after some of these "hired" soloists sang at funerals! I was on ice, there was no spiritual preparation whatsoever.

God was not interested in having "hired help" in the days of Amaziah. And if God was not pleased by such then, God is not pleased by such now. Yes it costs something to hire the world but God can give us much more than this. What God requires are people with their heart in what they do for him. It would be far better to have a child sing from the heart than to hire a soloist to sing for the money. The house of God is no place for performers, actors, of any kind. Such is humbug to the Holy Ghost!

2 CHRONICLES 25: 7-8  ALONG COMES THE MAN OF GOD.

Verse 7 But there came a man of God to him, saying, O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the LORD is not with Israel, to wit, with all the children of Ephraim. Verse 8 But if thou wilt go, do it; be strong for the battle: God shall make thee fall before the enemy: for God hath power to help, and to cast down.

2 Chronicles 25:7-8

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If you have noticed, whenever a King made a wrong move, along comes a man of God to tell the King his path of duty. And as we have seen, these kings did not always like or respond to these men of God. But it seems to me, we are to learn from this, that whenever we need correction God will always have a man of God there to correct us. God's man will speak the truth.

Here he says to this King: 2 Chronicles 25:7, "God is not with Israel." 2 Chronicles 25:8, "God shall make thee fall before the enemy." In other words, it is with God you have to do. God hath power to help. God hath power to cast down. King, you should be looking to God for your help and not looking to ungodly men. So King you have a choice. Take your choice. Choose. If you take these "helpers" you will lose the battle. If you obey God and separate from them, you will win.

But there came a man of God to him, saying, O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the LORD is not with Israel, to wit, with all the children of Ephraim.

2 Chronicles 25:7

But if thou wilt go, do it, be strong for the battle: God shall make thee fall before the enemy: for God hath power to help, and to cast down.

2 Chronicles 25:8

Perhaps in our day we feel this challenge as never before. Are we going to choose the ways of men OR the ways of God? Are we going to choose the methods of men or the methods of God? The weapons of our warfare are not carnal. And if we are going to choose carnal methods we may expect to produce more carnality. Join with that in which God is not, will only bring spiritual defeat and spiritual poverty.

6. 2 CHRONICLES 25:9 THE KING ASKS WHAT ABOUT THE MONEY, THE COST?

And Amaziah said to the man of God, But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel? And the man of God answered, The LORD is able to give thee much more than this.

2 Chronicles 25:9

Again in this situation he reveals his double heart. What about the money? He was about to make a decision wholly on the basis of money. And how often Church Boards do the same. It was not to him first a question of "right or wrong", only a matter of cost.

Amaziah's first reaction: "I cannot afford to do right because it will cost me a 100 talents of silver." And we apply that to our day. A man in business says, "I cannot afford to have such a high standard of morality, or I will be run-over. I durst not take a stand as an out and out Christian, I will lose connections. I will lose business. I will lose position. People will laugh at me. In Churches we face the same. However will the Church be maintained if we do not cater to the modern trends?
Individuals put aside plain duties for one reason, it will cost too much to do them. Why take a stand against liquor? Why take a stand against abortion? Will it not cost ME too much?

McLaren:
"Never mind the cost. Do what is right and leave the rest to God." The Lord is able to give thee much more than this. You will likely get more than you lose if you do what pleases God.

Parker:
"Better to suffer a little loss than lose everything. Better to endure the wrath of men than the wrath of God. The first loss may be the best. The man of God is always importing into human counsels great moral judgments, calling men to be measured by spiritual standards. The man of God sometimes mighty in prayer. Sometimes mighty in judgment. Sometimes ruthless in criticism. He has no money of his own. No bank in the wilderness. His eyes are on God"

In this lesson there is but another example of the cost of obedience. Bible. 3 asks: "Oh, who would not obey God if he might do it without cost? Who would not be the servant of Christ if he might be so without pain?. We observe there is no promise of the restoration of the money. There are some things to consider besides making money. God looks upon temporal things as if they were subordinate to higher good. Man looks upon them as if they were the highest. God puts his service and duties above everything else".

So the King sent home the soldiers and lost his 100 talents of silver. "If your business stands between you and God, let it go." Disobedience leads to defeat. Weigh the consequences. It is the doings of a fool to not consider consequences. The man of God who does right because it is right, often does lose a great deal as far as this world is concerned. And he has made up his mind to lose it. Sometimes he gets back more. Sometimes he does not. It does not matter. The Lord is able to give more. "More than the 100 talents? NO. Every man that sacrifices anything to conviction of duty gains more than he loses, (for thereby he gains inward nobleness and strength, no matter how disastrous may be the results externally. The inward results of faithfulness are so much greater, sweeter and nobler than all the external consequences that may follow. "That is good policy for a man to better himself for Christ’s sake for the sake of durable results."

Paul said: "I have suffered the loss of all things that I may win Christ. Debit all things. Credit, Christ. "For brass I will give gold and for iron, silver." Could not the giving up of those 100 talents speak of the cost of discipleship? Christ speaks about "His yoke", "taking up the cross", "forsaking all". "Cutting off our right hand", "plucking out the eye". We are too often tempted to do what is wrong for present advantage.

How many Christians have failed to be true because it would cost them their money or their reputation or what have you, to give up? Moses chose to suffer affliction rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Abraham chose to leave all and follow God. Joseph chose to go to jail rather than disobey God. Paul said, those things which were gain to me I counted loss for Christ. "It is better to lose money and keep character than make money and lose character."

7. 2 CHRONICLES 25:10-13. SEPARATION BROUGHT ANGER, BUT ALSO VICTORY.
Verse 10 Then Amaziah separated them, to wit, the army that was come to him out of Ephraim, to go home again: wherefore their anger was greatly kindled against Judah, and they returned home in great anger. Verse 11 And Amaziah strengthened himself, and led forth his people, and went to the valley of salt, and smote of the children of Seir ten thousand. Verse 12 And other ten thousand left alive did the children of Judah carry away captive, and brought them unto the top of the rock, and cast them down from the top of the rock, that they all were broken in pieces. Verse 13 But the soldiers of the army which Amaziah sent back, that they should not go with him to battle, fell upon the cities of Judah, from Samaria even unto Bethhoron, and smote three thousand of them, and took much spoil.

2 Chronicles 25:10-13

On this occasion Amaziah obeyed the man of God. Amaziah separated the soldiers of Israel form those of Judah and they went home in anger. Separation always causes anger. You will be looked upon as a "jolly good fellow" until you refuse to co-operate with the world, or have them co-operate with you. Amaziah must be commended for his action. It was not an easy thing to do. It never is. But it pays. All unequal yokes are primarily against the revealed will of God.

But the other side to this. When Amaziah obeyed the prophet of God, God gave him victory in the battle. He went into the battle down by the dead sea (2 Chronicles 25:11) and perhaps the cruel treatment of the captives in 2 Chronicles 25:12 took place on the top of Massada (That is only my suggestion) The principle remains. When one is separated from that which displeases God one is strengthened and victory is secured.

What the king does in 2 Chronicles 25:12, seems like an uncalled-for cruel deed. But all judgement seems cruel to us poor ignorant humans. Perhaps the events of 2 Chronicles 25:13 were allowed of God because of the event of 2 Chronicles 25:12 or it even could have been a forewarning of what 2 Chronicles 25:14 would bring upon the king.

And other ten thousand left alive did the children of Judah carry away captive, and brought them unto the top of the rock, and cast them down from the top of the rock, that they all were broken in pieces.
2 Chronicles 25:12

But the soldiers of the army which Amaziah sent back, that they should not go with him to battle, fell upon the cities of Judah, from Samaria even unto Bethhoron, and smote three thousand of them, and took much spoil.
2 Chronicles 25:13

Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them.
2 Chronicles 25:14

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8. 2 CHRONICLES 25:14 THE KING DOES WRONG.

Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them.

2 Chronicles 25:14

In 2 Chronicles 25:10, he does right. In 2 Chronicles 25:4, he does wrong. Yesterday he goes out to battle in the Name of Jehovah, encouraged by a true prophet of God. Today he comes home with the idols that could not and did not help his enemy. And he actually "set them up" to be his gods and "bowed down himself before them." And "burnt incense unto them." What madness!

Then Amaziah separated them, to wit, the army that was come to him out of Ephraim, to go home again: wherefore their anger was greatly kindled against Judah, and they returned home in great anger.

2 Chronicles 25:10

But he slew not their children, but did as it is written in the law in the book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers, but every man shall die for his own sin.

2 Chronicles 25:4

McGee: "It is amazing that this man would do a thing like this, but it reveals the iniquity that is in the human heart."

Parker: "Here is the double-minded man again. Yesterday he obeyed. Today he disobeys. A week ago he listened to the voice from Heaven and seven days after, brought home a whole houseful of gods. On Sunday we sing hymns. Wednesday we cheat the unwary and close the door of business with a smile. Thursday we sing another hymn. Perhaps this was to be expected from a man whose heart was not in his work and worship. How quickly men can become heretics"!

Why do men turn to heresies? Perhaps they have not held the truth with heart-conviction. And as we have reminded you over and over again, Turn from the truth and you will be TURNED to fables. Amaziah's heart turned from God and he brought home idols!

9. 2 CHRONICLES 25: 15-16 AGAIN GOD SENDS A PROPHET.

Verse 15 Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand?
Verse 16 And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel? forbear; why shouldest thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbare, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel.  
2 Chronicles 25:15-16

The Lord was angry. He should be! If my wife brought home another man, I would be angry and justly so. Yet in sending a prophet, God was also being gracious. The prophet asks, why? Why bring gods that could not deliver their own people? "God always accuses the sinner of being foolish." 2 Chronicles 25:16, And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the King said unto him. Art thou made of the Kings counsel? Forbear (be still!) Why shouldest thou be smitten?

So now we see, although the king was quick to respond to the prophets advise in verse 10, here he is not ready to respond as he did before. And why so? Is this not another example of what Proverbs says "He that being often reproved, hardens his neck? The conscience became seared and soon loses feeling. And so it is here. The prophet backs-off but not without a final warning: "I know that God hath determined to destroy thee BECAUSE ......." And there is that word again. God always has a reason for what He does.

10. 2 CHRONICLES 25:17-23 AMAZIAH IS DEFEATED.

Verse 17 Then Amaziah king of Judah took advice, and sent to Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us see one another in the face. Verse 18 And Joash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, Give thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by a wild beast that was in Lebanon, and trode down the thistle. Verse 19 Thou sayest, Lo, thou hast smitten the Edomites; and thine heart lifteth thee up to boast: abide now at home; why shouldest thou meddle to thine hurt, that thou shouldest fall, even thou, and Judah with thee? Verse 20 But Amaziah would not hear; for it came of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought after the gods of Edom. Verse 21 So Joash the king of Israel went up; and they saw one another in the face, both he and Amaziah king of Judah, at Bethshemesh, which belongeth to Judah. Verse 22 And Judah was put to the worse before Israel, and they fled every man to his tent. Verse 23 And Joash the king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, at Bethshemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim to the corner gate, four hundred cubits.

2 Chronicles 25:17-23
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Amaziah did not take advice of the prophet of God but he did take advice from his counselors (2 Chronicles 25:17) He did not ask God for counsel. He did not seek direction from above. So he challenges Israel to war. When he sent word, "come let us see one another in the face", he really was saying, "come let us fight." The king of Israel charges the King of Judah with pride, because he had been able to smite the Edomites. Too often if we are victorious once, or if God allows us to triumph, we are lifted up with pride. The charge against the king was true.

McGee:
"The king of Israel said, stay home, mind your own business because you will get hurt".
Verse 20 "The king would not hear, for the cause was of God BECAUSE they sought after the gods of Edom". The cause was of God. God had spoken to Amaziah by a prophet. He did not heed the counsel. Now judgment must come. The Lesson. God can close our ears in order to bring judgment upon us. So we are not surprised. The King of Israel put Judah to the worse. Broke down the wall of Jerusalem. Took the gold and silver and took hostages to Samaria.

X1. 2 CHRONICLES 25:24-28  THE KINGS DEATH.

Verse 24 And he took all the gold and the silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of God with Obededom, and the treasures of the king's house, the hostages also, and returned to Samaria. Verse 25 And Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived after the death of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years. Verse 26 Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, first and last, behold, are they not written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel? Verse 27 Now after the time that Amaziah did turn away from following the LORD they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem; and he fled to Lachish: but they sent to Lachish after him, and slew him there. Verse 28 And they brought him upon horses, and buried him with his fathers in the city of Judah.

2 Chronicles 25:24-28

Amaziah is taken a captive. 2 Chronicles 25: 23. Once refuse to obey God and be sure, trouble is ahead. 2 Chronicles 25: 27 is a sad statement. "Amaziah turned away from following the Lord". Conspiracy was made against him. He fled to Lachish but was slain there. Another violent death. The King with a good start and a poor finish. Do you know anyone who has turned out like that? What a sad end. see Psalm 75:4-7

And Joash the king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, at Bethshemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim to the corner gate, four hundred cubits.
2 Chronicles 25:23

Verse 4 I said unto the fools, Deal not foolishly: and to the wicked, Lift not up the horn: Verse 5 Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck. Verse 6 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. Verse 7 But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.
Psalm 75:4-7